

the spread of information, will help create this culture of awareness. The more people that know of the injustices, the more potential allies we all have.

Lastly, it is important to show the US government and the Bush administration that we are not afraid. That these repressive actions, and scare tactics will not work; that our movement will not be stopped and our commitment will not lessen. We will continue to act against oppression without asking permission, and without fear of repression or collective punishment. As a movement we are fighting against the very existence of "animal enterprise terrorism" laws, and the fact that someone could face a lifetime in jail for speaking out, or acting on behalf of those that can not fight themselves.

Find out more about how to support individuals:

Rod Coronado-<http://www.supportrod.org/>  
Chelsea Gerlach-<http://supportchelsea.org/>  
Darren Thurston-<http://freedarren.org/>  
Daniel McGowan-[www.supportdaniel.org](http://www.supportdaniel.org)  
Auburn Arrestees-<http://auburnarrestees.org/>  
<http://www.spiritoffreedom.org.uk/>  
<http://www.cldc.org/>  
<http://www.shac7.com/>

## "THE GREEN SCARE"

and the repercussions we  
all face

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#### TIMELINE:

- On December 7<sup>th</sup> 2005, six activists and former activists were arrested in various parts of the country. Three of the individuals subpoenaed ended up on a January 20, 2006, 65 count, 84 page long indictment. The new indictment charged 11 people with committing 18 acts of arson and vandalism over a 5 year period across multiple states.
- On December 17, 2005 U.S. District Judge Thomas Zilly sentenced Christopher McIntosh to 8 years in prison for setting fire to a Seattle McDonald's restaurant in January, 2003.
- On January 13, 2006, three individuals were arrested in Auburn, California for allegedly conspiring to damage telephone towers, a dam and Forest Service facilities "by explosive or fire".
- On February 22, 2006 Rod Coronado, a prominent Native American eco-anarchist, was arrested on a felony charge of demonstrating the use of a destructive device.
- On February 23, 2006, two more individuals, Nathan Frazer Block, 24, and Joyanna Lynn Zacher, 28, were arrested in Olympia, Washington.
- On March 2, 2006 a New Jersey jury convicted six animal rights activists and the group they were associated with, Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty (SHAC) with using their website to incite threats,

history and prove that they can't intimidate us. Together we are powerful. We must ask ourselves: Are we creating a culture of resistance that romanticizes action but shirks solidarity? Those who rejoiced when Vail burned must now defend those charged with that action and others like it. Some environmentalists and social justice activists are OK with the feds wanting blood from accused "ecoterrorists," forgetting that this blood will be used to smear any movement that becomes a threat. The feds will use any convictions they gain to justify increased political repression toward the rest of us." (From "Ten Lessons on the Criminalization of Dissent" by Camilo Vivieros)

There are a number of things that we as communities can do to show our support and solidarity for the individuals and the movement that is about to be on trial. Funds are a major factor in the strength of the defense's case; lawyers, bail, travel and court costs are all extremely expensive. Putting together fundraisers to raise money for the defense fund is a concrete thing that each of us can and should be doing. But we must also be looking beyond just doing fundraisers.

More people need to be aware about this issue, and the serious threat it poses. The information that over a dozen people may be spending the rest of their lives in jail based on ridiculous charges of "terrorism" must be in everyone's hands. Study groups, panel discussions, even rallies with the intent being

The question is not whether these charges are ridiculous or not, or if the charges are adequate and sentences fairly handed down; but whether we are all going to stand by and allow people to be systematically oppressed by this system any longer.

Law enforcement and anti-environmental politicians are pushing for even harsher sentences for those who commit property crimes for environmental and animal rights reasons. This is a blatant attack on any political activity that the government deems to be a threat, in other words political movements that they cannot control or pacify. Corporate and hunter groups have circulated model laws to state legislatures that would set up special crimes and harsh sentences for sabotage by environmental and animal rights activists. An existing federal law already makes disrupting animal enterprises a crime. Last year, the FBI and Senate Republicans called for strengthening the law and expanding it to apply to business disruptions by environmental activists.

#### What we can do

"The charges filed against individuals are meant to send a message to the rest of us. These cases are attempts to impede our collective ability to wage struggles against injustice. If we sit by and let repression build, it will weaken our ability to resist future persecution. We must set the course of

harassment, vandalism and attacks against the company Huntingdon Life Sciences and their business partners.

- On March 30, 2006, Briana Waters, a 30-year-old violin teacher and mother from California, was ordered to appear at a hearing at the U.S. District Court in Seattle after she became the 14th person indicted on conspiracy charges.

The above is an incomplete list of those arrested and indicted in the most current wave of repression against animal rights activists/radical environmentalists. Coined the "Green Scare" by environmental activists, this current group of indictments, arrests and harassment from the US government is first known to have appeared in 2002 in the wake of the February 12 congressional hearings on the purported "threat of eco- terrorism." The term green scare has also been widely used to describe an early 2006 sweep of arrests, convictions and grand jury indictments of alleged Earth Liberation Front and Animal Liberation Front activists on charges relating to acts of property damage, conspiracy, arson and use of destructive devices.

#### The ELF and the ALF

The Earth Liberation Front (ELF) is a collective of anonymous and completely autonomous cells that, according to the, now defunct, Earth Liberation Front Press Office (ELFPO), "uses direct action in the form of

economic sabotage to stop the exploitation and destruction of the natural environment." Cells have been active in the United States, Canada, Greece, and the United Kingdom. Sympathizers say that the ELF is an eco-defense group dedicated to taking the profit motive out of environmental destruction by targeting and causing economic damage to businesses through the use of direct action. Their techniques have involved destruction of property that they believe is being used to injure animals, people or the environment. This vandalism and arson has been labeled ecotage by the US government and corporate run media.

In March of 2001 the ELF was classified as the top domestic threat by the FBI. However, supporters and sympathizers of the group usually object to being called terrorists because no human has been injured by any action claimed by the ELF. The ELF's guidelines require that individuals or groups acting on its behalf "take all necessary precautions against harming any animal - human and nonhuman."

According to the Animal Liberation Front Support Group (ALFSG) the ALF is a group that "carries out direct action against animal abuse in the form of rescuing animals and causing financial loss to animal exploiters, usually through the damage and destruction of property. The ALF's short-term aim is to save as many animals as possible and directly disrupt the practice of animal abuse. Their long term aim

is to end all animal suffering by forcing animal abuse companies out of business." Because A.L.F. actions are against the law, activists work anonymously, either in small groups or individually, and do not have any centralized organization or co-ordination.

Neither the Earth Liberation Front and the Animal Liberation front have any formal leadership, membership or official spokesperson; instead they consist of individuals or small groups who choose to use the terms. The founders of each group set forth original guide lines that those choosing to use the terms, ELF/ALF should abide by. And actions that fall with those guidelines may use the term ELF or ALF.

### Harsh Sentencing

"Persons who conduct this kind of activity are going to spend a long time in jail," FBI Director Mueller said. It is that kind of attitude that is prevailing in law enforcement groups all across the country and the world.

Most of those who have been arrested in the recent sweep are facing life sentences, with some sentences of over 300 years possible. By comparison, the average federal sentence for murderers convicted in federal court is 20 years, robbers average six years and assaulters two years. Ironically, someone who steals an SUV faces a far lower sentence than someone who destroys the vehicle with a political motive.